

Appl. No. 10/002,726
Amdt. Dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets, which include Figures 1-7E, replace the original sheet including Figures 1-7E. The replacement sheets are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-37 are pending in the application, Claims 1-8, 10 and 22-37 are rejected, Claims 11-21 are allowed and that Claim 9 is objected to. By this amendment, Claims 1, 22, 23, 25, 29 and 30 have been amended, Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-8 and 10-37 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims do not add new matter to the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Drawings

The Drawings are objected to as containing poor quality. The attached replacement sheets render the objection moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

The Examiner has previously noted that the limitations of Claims 9, 11, 12 and 18 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art. The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 9. Accordingly, Claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the prior art of record.

Independent Claim 22 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 11. Accordingly, Claim 22, as amended, is patentable over the prior art of record.

Independent Claim 30 is substantially similar to Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 30 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 9. Accordingly, Claim 30, as amended, is patentable over the prior art of record.

For the above advance reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 1-8 and 10-37 are patentable over the prior art. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-8 and 10-37.

Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

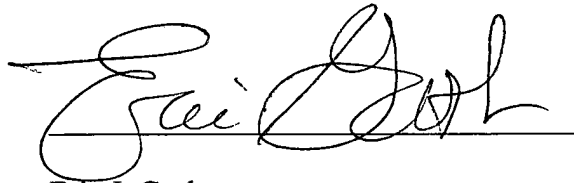
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-0085. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to

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charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time
to Deposit Account 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Gash", written over a horizontal line.

Dated: February 28, 2006

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